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NEW YORK KORKALA

Convicted arms smuggler George Korkala was held today on \$450,000 bail on federal charges he schemed with former CIA agent Frank Terpil to sell weapons to Uganda.

Korkala, 42, pleaded innocent Tuesday, but U.S. District Court Judge Pierre Leval, in Manhattan, rejected ''as far too little'' the government's request for \$100,000 bail.

Leval noted Korkala had forfeited \$100,000 bail when he fled the country in 1981, just before his trial on state charges of conspiracy to sell weapons to Latin American revolutionaries.

He was convicted and sentenced, in absentia, to 54 years in prison in that case.

Korkala has been a fugitive for two years in Europe and the Middle East. He was flown to New York from Madrid Saturday after six months of extradition proceedings.

Leval tentatively scheduled May 16 for the trial of Korkala and co-defendant Marilyn Terpil, the wife of fugitive Frank Terpil.

Terpil is the third defendant in the weapons indictment that was filed in Manhattan in 1981, and is believed in the Middle East, possibly Beirut.

Korkala, who has two daughters and a \$200,000 home in Nutley, N.J., is expected to ask the court to set aside his state conviction as invalid because he was not present at his trial.

Terpil, 44, formerly of McLean, Va., also jumped \$100,000 bail and was sentenced in absentia to the same jail term as Korkala in the arms smuggling case.